

# Destination Breaffy

**LOOPED WALKS - 2k/3k/5k**  
Freedom Begins with 101 Acres of Wide-Open Space!


COTTAGE ROAD TRIM TRAIL

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- ### POINTS OF INTEREST
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### PICK YOUR ROUTE



**2K**



**3K**



**5K**

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This is Destination Breaffy at its finest, Pure Escapism.. Enjoy it!

### INTRODUCTION

The Browne family were first connected with the lands at Breaffy in 1680 when John Browne was granted 200 acres of land here in the period of land confiscation of the Cromwellian Settlement at the end of the 17th century. The first Breaffy House is estimated to have been built during the 18th century by Dominick Browne (1701-1776). The Browne estate had expanded during the eighteenth century during the period of the Penal Laws. In 1849 the estate was owned by Dominick Andrew, a great grandson of the aforementioned Dominick. The Browne's had lost most of their lands through their allegiance to the House of Stuart. The Great Famine also had a huge effect on the gentry of Ireland and many had to sell their lands to remain solvent. The present Breaffy House was built by Dominick Andrew Browne in 1890.

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### POINT OF INTEREST WALLED GARDEN

At the turn of the century, the Walled Garden was a stunning feature of the estate and a beautiful extension to the 'Big House'. If you look closely at the green overgrowth you can see the remnants of the original stone wall façade. During the period from 1900 up to the 1960's approximately 25 people were employed as farm workers, gamekeepers and servants on the estate tasked with the responsibility of taking care of the Grounds, Gardens and Game!

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### POINT OF INTEREST 2ND RED BRIDGE

Officially known as our 2nd Red Bridge, (our 1st Red Bridge is located on the pond beside the Fairy Village and makes for a stunning location to pop the question!) this bridge provides a stunning vista of tranquillity. Arch your head across the wall to take a peek into the river. Can you spot the 'Wild Brown Trout'? This footbridge also marks the spot where the original owners of Breaffy House Resort; the Browne family, had the first Hydro Electric Dam in Mayo! This river extends beyond the boundaries of Breaffy House flowing all the way to the Moy River, one of the primary rivers of Co. Mayo.

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### POINT OF INTEREST TREE LINED AVENUE

As you meander past the walled garden turn right onto the avenue. This was the original avenue to the 'Big House' and today comprises over 48 trees including a variety of Beech, Sycamore, Hazel and Oak. (Note: Originally there were 52 Trees, 1 for each week of the year, but 2 were removed to make way for the entrance to the Sports Arena and 2 were removed at the Bridge near the small roundabout). Take a moment to reflect upon the richness of history that has passed through its branches. Imagine the hundreds of people including gentry and tenants who walked its pathway since the mid-17th century. As you head down the avenue take note of the old house at the end on the right. This was the original Gate Lodge of the estate. It's Georgian style windows and uncomplicated façade are steeped in history dating back to the late 19th century. As you gaze back up the avenue enjoy the 'Game of Thrones' like effect that the canopy of trees invokes. Take a moment to absorb the beauty of this stunning tree-lined avenue before turning left for the beginning of the Forest Walk.

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### POINT OF INTEREST FOREST WALK SUNKEN SWAMP

The Forest Walk is a haven of biodiversity etched on a green canvas of flora and fauna providing guests with pure escapism and relaxation. Enjoy the abundance of nature, stop and listen to the birds singing, hear the rustle of the trees, look and see how many Flying Lanterns (i.e butterflies) you can spot! This walk is manna for the soul, so enjoy the abundant feast before you. Head over to the sunken swamp, and see what you can find? Do you see any tadpoles? Can you spot any frogs? What else do you see? Beware of the 'Hungry Heron'. With so much to feast upon, he is sure to be lurking in the leaves!

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POINT OF INTEREST

### BREAFFY BRIDGE

As you exit the Forest Trail turn left onto the NEW main driveway of Breaffy House Resort which was built in the 1980s to showcase the front entrance of the hotel. Enjoy the stroll as the driveway snakes through an equally stunning treelined avenue where you cross over the walled bridge with its 'Charles Dickens' style lanterns. Look left and observe with awe the stunning front façade with its 19th century Victorian architecture giving Breaffy House Hotel a magnificent 'castlesque' type appearance. Look closely to the right.

Can you spot the Fox trail?

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POINT OF INTEREST

### BREAFFY CEMETERY

As you head up the driveway observe the entrance to the Cottage Trail and Breaffy Cemetery located on your right. Under the terms of the Wyndham Land Act of 1903 most of the estate was sold to the tenants, except for the demesne. In its prime, the estate comprised over 1,000 acres. The Great Famine also had a huge effect on the gentry of Ireland and many had to sell their lands to remain solvent. Observe the Celtic Cross of the graveyard which extends above the old cemetery wall. Before beginning the Cottage Road trim Trail, look left and feast your eyes on the panoramic view that stretches out across the estate from the shady trees towards the beehives. Why not take a moment to sit on the bench and enjoy the splendour of greenery and vastness of wide-open space before you?

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POINT OF INTEREST

### GIANT STILTS

The 'Cottage Road Trim Trail' was excavated originally back in 2015 and extended as part of the reopening of the resort for the summer of 2020. As you walk the pathway there are a number of discovery points. Look out for the 'Log Swings' and 'Giant Stilts' wooden structure further down on the right. Can't you just imagine Garden Gnomes meandering through the estate after nightfall using these Giant stilts for added height!

Note: the 'Giant Stilts' is an important landmark to remind you where to turn on the way back to reach the Browne's Shooting Hollow.

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Refer to Point 10.

POINT OF INTEREST

### DOMINICK BROWNE RAILWAY

As you walk further down the Cottage Trail look out for a turn to your left. You will take this all the way to the end until you reach a flush green meadow. Look right past the undergrowth for a view of the Old Railway Arch. This important landmark marks the spot where Dominick Andrew Browne (the descendant within the Browne Family who built the present Breaffy House in 1890), took the train from Castlebar to Dublin during the late 19th century.

Turn around and walk back the way you came. As you enjoy this leisurely stroll doesn't the poem *'The Road Not Taken'* by *Robert Frost* spring to mind? "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood and sorry I could not travel both and be one traveller. Long I stood and looked down one as long as I could to where it bent in the undergrowth"

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POINT OF INTEREST

### DEMESNE AND SCOUT'S TREE FORT

As you continue back the way you came, look out for a right-hand turn through the trees... as you amble through the forest trail can you see the 'Burrow Base at the Tree Stump' on your right? You are in the heart of the forest woodlands now, home of many wild animals native to Ireland including Pine Martins, Badgers, Squirrels, Foxes, and Hedgehogs. Look at the tree stump... if you're lucky and keep still you just might see a badger, a squirrel or even a fox! Continue forward and you will arrive at the Scout's Tree Fort, a wooden architecture erected by the local scout's group where they enjoy scout and camping trips throughout the year. While you might be tempted to climb, it is not advised! Perhaps take a moment instead to sit on a log and enjoy the rooftop canopy of trees that provides the perfect mix of light and shade on sunny days!

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POINT OF INTEREST

### BROWNE'S SHOOTING HOLLOW

Turn around, exit the demesne and turn right back down the Cottage Trail to the end until you reach the T junction, turn right and go straight until you reach the 'Giant Stilts' (remember this wooden structure from earlier which will now be on your left.) Turn right here and observe the NEW trail which slopes downward and opens up to the stunning vista of Breaffy House Hotel in the distance. Take a moment to enjoy the views! Can you also see our NEW Scandinavian BBQ Hut on the hill? Stay on the path walking down to the Browne's Shooting Hollow. This was home of the original shooting site where on average 2 shoots took place annually from the late 1800's - 1960's. Take a peek through the bushes on your right. Can you see the extensive green fields where once the gentry were regaled by a colourful cacophony of sound including the release of the hounds and the caterwauling of Woodcock, Pheasant and Quail as they indulged their senses for a full day's shooting! During the period 1900 to 1960's approximately 25 people were employed as farm workers, gamekeepers and servants in the estate. These shooting events signified wealth, opulence and prestige in keeping with the classes of gentry that were frequent visitors to the Browne Estate.

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POINT OF INTEREST

### SCANDINAVIAN BBQ HUT

Continue up the pathway and you arrive at the NEW Scandinavian BBQ Hut, Destination Breaffy's latest Outdoor Dining Experience! This BBQ Hut comes equipped with its own BBQ Grill allowing you and your family/friends to host your own 'Outdoor BBQ Experience' right here on the Resort! Choose from 3 package offers. This is truly an experience to remember! Enquire at the Hotel Reception desk to make a booking!

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POINT OF INTEREST

### HUGGING TREE

To the right of the hut, observe the wonderful sycamore tree or Hugging Tree, so called because of the way its trunk intertwines like two lovers passionately embracing. Take a moment to examine its strength and beauty. Have a seat on the park bench beneath it and enjoy the wonderful panoramic view of the entire hotel and estate. Thinking of popping the question? This is yet another ideal wedding proposal spot on the estate; elegant, charming, romantic and memorable, exactly how you want such a moment to be! Don't forget to tell your friends!

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POINT OF INTEREST

### DESTINATION BREAFFY BEEHIVES

As you glance back over your shoulder past the Scandinavian BBQ hut, do you notice the Beehives? Did you know that Breaffy House Resort has its own beehives working with the Castlebar Beekeepers association producing honey that you can sample as part of our NEW Breakfast Menu! Don't get too close! But if you stop and listen, you will hear their buzzing sounds! 'enjoy the buzzing of the bees amidst the rustling of the trees where happiness begins with 101 acres of wide-open spaces'

**'Enjoy the Buzzing of the Bees Amidst the Rustling of the Trees where Happiness Begins with 101 Acres of Wide-Open Spaces'**

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